

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01 OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00

A-01 SY-05 USSS-00 SCCT-01 /079 W

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O 231320Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3651

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON IMMEDIATE

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN IMMEDIATE

COMIDEAST FOR IMMEDIATE

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA IMMEDIATE

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI IMMEDIATE

CNO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0895

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: FURTHER DETAILS ON ABDUCTION OF BRITISH HONORARY CONSUL

REF: ASMARA 0893

1. CONGEN OFFICER SPOKE WITH BURWOOD-TAYLOR'S SECRETARY WHO WAS IN GELATLY HANKEY OFFICES AT TIME OF ABDUCTION. SHE STATED THAT HER FIRST AWARENESS OF PRESENCE OF ELF ABDUCTORS WAS SHORTLY AFTER 9:30, WHEN ONE ENTERED HER OFFICE, BRUSHED PAST HER DESK AND PROCEEDED TO CUT TELEPHONE WIRES. HE THEN MOVED ON TO ANOTHER OFFICE. CURIOUS, SHE WENT TO OFFICE OF FIRM'S ADMIN OFFICER TO FIND OUT WHY PHONE HAD BEEN CUT AND FIRST SAW THAT INTRUDERS WERE ARMED  
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WITH PISTOLS. AT THIS POINT, INTRUDERS ANNOUNCED IN TIGRINYA

THAT THEY WERE FROM ELF AND THAT NOBODY WOULD BE HURT IF THEY DID NOT RESIST.

2. INTRUDERS WERE DRESSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES AND SPOKE ONLY TIGRINYA DURING INCIDENT. THEY TOOK ESTIMATED E\$5000 FROM GELATLY HANKEY CASHIER AND THOUGH EFFICIENT IN THEIR ACTIONS, DID NOT SEEM IN HURRY TO DEPART, SPENDING ESTIMATED 20 MINUTES IN OFFICE PROPAGANDIZING ERITREAN WORKERS. SIMULTANEOUSLY OTHER INTRUDERS INVADDED BRITISH CONSUL'S OFFICE, SEIZED BURWOOD-TAYLOR AND LOCKED THE PRO-CONSUL IN OFFICE. ERITREAN WORKERS TOLD BURWOOD-TAYLOR'S SECRETARY THAT THERE WERE TOTAL OF FOUR INTRUDERS AND THAT THEY LEFT WITH BRITISH CONSUL, HUSTLED HIM INTO HIS OFFICIAL VEHICLE AND DROVE AWAY. AT NO TIME WAS THERE ANY INTERVENTION FROM DOZEN OR SO EPMG SOLDIERS GUARDING COMMERCIAL BANK ACROSS STREET FROM GELATLY HANKEY.

3. PRO-CONSUL WAS RELEASED BY FELLOW WORKERS, FOUND OPERATING PHONE AND REPORTED INCIDENT FIRST TO POLICE AND THEN TO BRITISH EMBASSY IN ADDIS. ON ARRIVAL, ETHIOPIAN POLICE ASKED WHY THERE HAD BEEN DELAY IN REPORTING ABDUCTION. WHEN WORKERS RESPONDED THAT ABDUCTORS HAD CUT TELEPHONE LINES, POLICE EXAMINED SEVERED LINES WITH OBVIOUS SUSPICION. ATTITUDE OF POLICE WAS THAT WORKERS SHOULD HAVE THWARTED ABDUCTION DESPITE FACT INTRUDERS WERE ARMED AND OBVIOUSLY INTENT ON THEIR PURPOSE. POLICE TOOK PRO-CONSUL AND REPORTEDLY ALL OTHER GELATLY HANKEY EMPLOYEES (ABOUT 15) INTO CUSTODY FOR INTERROGATION AND HAVE NOT AT THIS HOUR RELEASED THEM.  
SHERRY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** KIDNAPPING, EXTORTION, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, LIBERATION FRONTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 75 ASMARA 893  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FURTHER DETAILS ON ABDUCTION OF BRITISH HONORARY CONSUL  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, ET, UK, ELF, PLF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006